Kake Alaska
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Kake Alaska

May. 18, 1944

Board of National Mission.

It is a long story about our church here in a place called Kake Alaska. before my time the people here in our little town went through lot of difficulty. things were imporoking never since and to the understanding I know the church first belonged to the France. and it was bought from them. and from that time on the people has been trying to learn about our Saviour Jesus Christ and been hoping to have some one to preach in our own native language. then time came when one of the white minister stayed with the native people so long that one of his son learn the native language then he interpret his father when he preachen. this minister's name was Mr. Moon. this boys

were raised here in Kake, and the time for thier leaving, it was told by many people, that thier were crying they got so used to the children and the older people.
after that we have ministers few years after wards one of the Alaska native came to be an interpreter. who's name was Chas. Gunnuck for many years he was faithfuly. after he died. then one of our native man was interpreted again, who is a Salvation army officer now. capt. David Stuteen
after the minister came our own kind Alaska native as a Layworker which all the older people understands the work for christ was kepte up from the beginning untill now.
then for two years we were with out any one to give us the word of God, ~~then~~ so one of our church Elder John Bean and myself.

(Wm. Duggura) have the church a going with out any pay. my wife and I also kept up the Sunday school with about eighty children, and while we were yet with out any one to preach to word of God. I was elected as a church Elder. then I thought of seeing Mr E.C. Bramly at Hoonah Alaska which is about one hundred and twenty miles it took me fourteen hours to get there on my boat. just so we can have some one in our field here in Kake. and preach the word of our Savior. day after I got there I went to see Rev. Bramly. and talk to him about needing a worker very badly in our little town, first thing I know he want me to take the work over myself. Then as we were told from the old testament when Moses was called to lead his people he said he haven't got enough understanding

and not worthy to stand befor them.
this is the feeling that I got in
my mind. but later I repented. so
I said to him I think we can
find a better man or a person if
you come over. and let the town
people choose, so there won't be
any thing against the person that
supposed to be choosing as a layworker.
So late in fall came Rev. Bromley.
then we had all the members and
many of the town people were present.
and on the meeting the Layworker
discussion came up. then namination
for Layworker. It happen that I was
the only one naminated and the namination
come to close. this is the time I know
it was God who appointed me to
do His work. I know my prayer was
answered. when I came home. I was
crying it might be just a happiness
and more repentness. Now I'm thanking
for His care and guiding me.

through hardships and happiness of
cadee life is not always smooth
and easy. in times Some of the members
which suppoating me with they words
and uphold our church attendance
fail. its the temptation that weakings
but through the help any mercy
of our Lord Jesus Christ Comes to Church
and do the work all over again
The ones that repent gets the
fulegg it was for me that Jesus
died on the cross, that my sins
can be forgiving. Through their
understanding and teaching from the
Bible it helps to start a new again
(Lovie Thomas) one of our Church members
came all the way from Klawock Alaska
over hundred miles from Kake said
(It has been long since I left
Kake and been seems like I'm lost
been drinking liquor, been in to lot of
trouble and hardships seems as I been
way out in the ocean nothing to

help me nobody to talk to. one day I make up my mind that I will come to Kake and will repent in my church and start life new again So I came and find my peace here. I thank God that he have saved and found me.)

(His Pray) Father in heaven I have come here tonight for your forgiveness I have come to the foot of thy cross that the sins I have commited be washed. and cleansed by the blood of my redeemer who died on the cross for a poor sinner like me. Oh. Father take away my bad habits from me That I may do thy work faithfully. and Guide me throughd my life journey that I may stand the temptation. and Strenghting my body and soul. I thank thee for the care and mercy in Jesus name I ask amen)

About our church the few members we have here in Kake it has

been nice the way the members supporting the church on repair work inside. even though it cost the members money but its Gods house its got to be kept in good condetion, so it is kept in good order. not very long the floor was oiled varnished the chairs, painted inside and planing to paint outside if we get the paint all this work is done free by the church members and I are willing to do more if we get some lumber for recreation, and Sunday school room.

William Dugagwa
Layworker Kkde.

AUG 8 1960

Memorial Presbyterian Church
Kake, Alaska
August 2, 1960

Dr. J. Earl Jackman
475 Riverside Drive
New York 27, New York

Dear Dr. Jackman:

Please find enclosed payment for ten copies of Marsden of Alaska. Thank you for sending these.

Work continues to be very slow here in Kake. With the poor fishing season it appears to be impossible to catch up on the obligations our local congregation has and this alone is discouraging. Our Bible School did give us encouragement in the work. In some ways we feel the work in Kake as in many S.E. Alaska communities will take time to develop, and therefore we should not become too discouraged. However, with the situation before us, we would appreciate some advice from you. At times we feel we are not only marking time here, but going backward. With the present need of a pastor in Metlakatla, is there any possibility of our meeting that need? I feel one of the needs for our Alaska congregations is to have a greater part in calling a minister and thus they will know their responsibility in supporting the church program and feeling responsible for the work. Metlakatla does seem to have a better future. People are at least supporting the church program and perhaps could go much farther with this start. Also, one's family would be closer to medical attention which is getting to be a necessity with us. We have a special interest in being closer to my brother and his family at Annette. We will stay in Kake for this year if it seems best, but unless the response of people warrant our staying we feel we must find a more responsive people. One really wonders if it is just oneself and if there is any hope in another situation. It does seem that these people respect an older man and perhaps someone with a grown family would be able to do an effective work in Kake. I remember at our interview in New York City, I voiced the opinion that I felt a need for experience first, whereupon you stated the necessity of sending young ministers because older men would not readily move from a settled pastorate. If only one could know that despite poor response and discouragement that this was where God has called us. We try to think this, but just cannot be sure. This must be a requirement of any call. Perhaps in our Presbyterian way it is the congregation that is the channel for this call of God, but here there is no chance to get that. If one could be certain then no matter what might happen one could rest content in pleasing God. If at all possible please give some advice in this matter.

At present our car and utility trailer are in Ketchikan. A friend of my brother, Chuck Collins, Alaska Coastal Agent, is taking care of them. However, we should find better storage or else ship them to Kake. So far, we have spent about $100.00 to get the car and trailer from Prince Rupert to Ketchikan and it may cost close to $150.00 to get them on as far as Kake. Alaska Steamship Company could bring them on to Kake on their next freight shipment

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which may be their last to Kake for this year. With the small salmon pack there may well be only this one more trip. I have not found any boat from Kake that can bring it up in the near future. Ordinarily boats go down towards Ketchikan for fall fishing, but with poor fishing this year, no one knows what will happen.

Please give us some advice in relation to our work in Kake and what the future may hold. This will be encouraging for us to know. Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

Robert W. Simonds

Robert W. Simonds

Kake

August 12, 1960

The Rev. and Mrs. Robert Simonds
Kake
Alaska

Dear Bob and Betsy:

I have your letter of August 2nd before me which reveals the fact that you need a word of encouragement in your present situation. As we continue our ministry to the Indian people we always hope that the message of Christ will so take hold of their lives that they will become more responsible and more responsive in every phase of life and particularly in relation to the church. Always we find that a few of them accomplish this but the majority seem not yet to have achieved it which makes our missionary service very discouraging at times. For a little while some of them will respond and take leadership and just when we think that we have accomplished this transformation, someone upon whom we depended does not do what we expect of him. This is characteristic of the Indian people in general. If one can adjust his thinking to this and still have a strong positive faith in the power of the Gospel to change lives, one can continue his missionary service among them without being frustrated. If one cannot accept this, even regretfully, and work among them with hope and expectation - then Indian work in Alaska is not the place for that individual. When you folks had asked for work among native people particularly we thought perhaps you had had some experience in this field and could adjust your minds and attitudes toward it.

When you had asked for work among the native people we had hoped that you could remain in this for an indefinite period of time because,even in the face of disappointment, our work has never been strengthened in any place where we have had unsatisfactory or rapidly changing leadership. Knowing how conscientious and devoted both of you are, we would ask you to give further consideration to this in Kake. If you feel you can adjust yourself to these realizations and continue the service there, we would urge you to do it. However after serious consideration, if you feel you cannot adjust to it but should move then we certainly would want to consider a move with you. We know that you will not take this lightly but will be sincere in it as the Lord may lead you.

There are some things there in which you have accomplished a great deal. This is true of the present and future plans on the property. The narrative report on your Vacation Bible School and summer program was excellent and showed a good response on the part of your people. Your reports on home visits are good. They all show that you are making an effort to per-

form your ministry.

Perhaps it would be well to say a word about your own personality, Bob, in relation to the people. You are serious minded, and a persistent person who wants to do a good job and get things done. In this you seem to be rather sober and may at times appear to your people not to be warm and friendly. Added to this is the possibility that you may seem sober and discouraged when your people do not respond to the zeal which you put into your work to get it done. Don't lose any of your zeal but do you need to develop a more relaxed, friendly attitude with your people at all times?

Regarding Metlakatla, we can easily see how you would prefer to live there because of your greater nearness and accessibility for medical attention and to be nearer your brother and his family. We should point out that Metlakatla has some particular problems of personalities which ought to have someone of more experience in the ministry than you have had. There is a strong recommendation also that our ministry ought not to be confined to the Indian church of Metlakatla but should be broadened out to include anybody on the island (including the FAA residents areas) who will respond to a Presbyterian ministry. This again, is going to offer some tactful dealing with the elders of our church in Metlakatla. I am not sure that you are ready for this but you have the right to be considered if that is your desire.

Now that you have your car and trailer partway to Kake we hope that you will be able to get it the rest of the way without a huge expenditure of money. We are willing to share this expenditure with you.

No further progress has been made toward the completion of the deeds for those who have houses on our church property. There was no evidence in the correspondence or the survey that there were four houses on these three lots and this was not known until my visit to Kake last April. I recommended to our legal department that they try to draw four separate deeds and describe the bounderies so that they could be distinquishable at some future date in relation to the survey which we have. Our legal office thought it might be wiser for us to draw up the three deeds and then let the two men who are concerned with their houses on the one lot straighten it out later. This probably would never be done because it will be a long time before another surveyor will be in the village for such purposes. I feel also that the total cost of the survey which we have made should be borne by the four men concerned and not by just three. If this cost is redistributed it would mean that the Jackson next to the manse should have a small refund and the fourth man should make his payment for the deed plus a proportional part of the survey cost. If you could get any reaction from the people concerned on this it would be a guide to us in settling the question. Meanwhile the bounderies of the Jackson property next to the manse will not be affected by this and we hope that he will arrange to move his house this fall on his own lot and then he can ask the legal office to go ahead and issue his deed.

Best regards to the whole family and we trust that all of you are well and are having a good summer.

Cordially,

JEJ:kmc

cc. The Rev. Wm. Pritchard

J. Earl Jackman
Department of Work in Alaska